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# COMIC SHOP NEWS™

**"Hot and heavy...(with) vibrantly intense art. A-"**
*— Entertainment Weekly*

# THE LOSERS

**Read the acclaimed graphic novel collections that inspired the highly anticipated feature film releasing April 2010**

Written by **ANDY DIGGLE**

Art by **JOCK**

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# Kevin Smith's Seeing Green

Last week, *CSN* spoke with publisher *Nick Barrucci* and editor *Joseph Rybandt* about the debut of their high-profile ***Green Hornet*** franchise. This week, superstar writer *Kevin Smith* speaks with *CSN* about the project—how it came to be, what he hopes to accomplish, and what readers can expect.

Was the acclaimed filmmaker and screenwriter resistant to the idea of adding another comic book project to his schedule? "I wasn't resistant as much as I just didn't know where I would fit it in the schedule," Smith said. "I have a really bad reputation in the comic book community for being delayed—or delaying myself, rather—over and over again on books. There was a period after ***Spider-Man/Black Cat*** where I kind of swore off writing comics by virtue of the fact that I couldn't guarantee a schedule for delivering scripts.

"When I started working on ***Batman: Cacophony*** with *Walter [Flanagan*, illustrator of the series] we made sure that we got everything done before they even really announced it. The same thing with ***Gyre;*** I think I finished the first six issues of the ***Widening Gyre*** script before we announced it or before Walter even started drawing. That was an effort to combat lateness.

"I was already up to my neck with ***Gyre,*** so the notion of writing a ***Green Hornet*** comic in addition was not in the cards for me. Like doing a weekly book or reinventing a universe, it was a far bigger task than I could have signed up for without disappointing everybody across the boards. Thankfully, it was *Nick [Barrucci*, Dynamite publisher] who brought up the script for the ***Green Hornet*** movie that I had written. I said 'Oh man, I guess you *could* do that! I can't write a new series, but if you wanted to adapt the script that never got made—yeah that could be pretty bad ass.' I had already done that work, so I enjoyed the notion of seeing the project that I had abandoned so many years ago come to quasi-life. I mean, all I had to do was write a script a few years ago and say yes in the present day.

"The good folks at Miramax were very kind about letting us use the script for a movie that was never going to happen once *Michelle Gongri* and *Seth Rogen* started working on their ***Green Hornet*** movie; everyone pretty much knew that would be only ***Green Hornet*** movie we were going to see for a while. So Miramax was like, 'Yeah, even though Kevin wrote a script for a movie and we paid him a lot of money to do so a long time ago, it's obviously not going to go anywhere, so if you guys want to do it here in the comics, feel free.' That was mighty generous of them."

Smith points out that his involvement goes beyond just turning in the old script and walking away. "If I see some lines and I'm like 'Ugh, God, I must have thought that was good writing in 2004,' then I'm going to correct myself and make it more palatable, more readable. So as I start seeing pages come back to me, I'll do the same thing I do with every book I work on—I'll redraft some dialogue and stuff. Other than that, though, it will be a *de facto* adaptation of a script I wrote for a movie that I'll never make— but at one point was very, very amped to make until I realized I wasn't talented enough to make it. It's nice to see it come to life years later in the hands of a talented artist who can realize that script."

Smith is bringing more to ***The Green Hornet*** than his original script, however; as he revisits the story, he's making changes. "What could have started simply as, 'here, take the script and let me see it when you're done' has become much more than that," Smith said. "Things would kick in, like 'I remember in an earlier draft I had a scene involving Brit and his wife, so is there enough space to fit that in?' Suddenly, you're bringing something to it that wouldn't have been there had you made the movie. And it's not like I cut this out of the script because it was terrible. You cut stuff for time, but in comic book form we've got time for character development, and that will enhance any story.

"I've been looking at the breakdowns and going, 'hey man, this scene could totally fit back in here, so I'm going to reinstate that scene.' It's been a great way to revisit it and I'm now prepared to make ***The Green Hornet,*** so to speak. Back when I walked away from it I was not up for doing that at all... I can actually move forward and say this is where my ***Green Hornet*** script *belongs*, on the comic book pages—this is where it's going to live the best. I mean, it's an homage to almost every age of comics: Golden, Silver,, and modern. It's a comic book script for a comic book movie written by a guy who loves comics."

Those who have had the opportunity to see the original script comment on the obvious passion and reverence that Smith brought to ***The Green Hornet.*** He acknowledges that passion and reverence, which he sees as a sort of liability for the film project—but an asset for the comic book. "When I was working on ***Hornet***, we had kind of a different manifesto than Seth and Michelle have. I wouldn't call their film a flat-out *comedy*, but it's definitely more along the lines of ***Pineapple Express***. There's action, tons of it, I'm sure—but the first thing they're going to think about rather than punching you in the face is tickling your funny bone. That would have been the ideal version of the ***Green Hornet*** to write. But what they wanted was a straight-up costumed superhero actioner, not that different from Batman and Robin..

"I just never really believed that version could work in film, because the core demographic is about 86 now— this was a character created for the *radio* by *George Trendle*, who also created The Lone Ranger, so we're going far, far back.

"Granted, the example of the ***Green Hornet*** that everybody knows the most is the 60's TV show—but most people associate that with *Bruce Lee*, and maybe to some degree the car. Lots don't even know who played the ***Green Hornet,*** and lots don't even know the show didn't even run for a complete season. So if you're making a feature the way we were doing it, with a straight-up masked crime fighter angle—well, we were dead in the water as far as I was concerned. I was like 'There's no way, man. Why would you go see a serious version of ***The Green Hornet*** when ***The Dark Knight*** has existed?'

"So the notion of doing that was like, 'Ahhhh, why do another one of those?' Particularly because I'm not visually gifted enough to do it with some panache and add something new to the genre. However, on the comic book page, my version is going to be more apt. It is *very* true to the origins of the character— granted, we had to make it kind of 'the next generation,' but with the exception that we weren't allowed to reference The Lone Ranger (because that was a separate license) this is pretty faithful to every incarnation of Brit Reed and the Green Hornet and Kato that had been produced. When I looked at it, I thought 'Wow, this reads more like a comic book than it does a movie.' And now I guess we're going to see that proven true."

Surprisingly, in an industry where it seems that almost every script leaks out ahead of time, *Kevin Smith's* ***Green Hornet*** script has never leaked onto the internet. And once the comic deal was negotiated, Smith wanted to make sure that the script remained unseen until the comic was released. "Let's be honest. The angle for this miniseries isn't 'Wow! *Kevin Smith* reinvents the Green Hornet! He's doing something in comics that no one has ever done in comics before!' Basically, the angle is 'Wow, man you're going to see the movie that turd boy *didn't* make,'" Smith joked. "That's a powerful angle on which to sell it, because you're selling to both fans *and* haters. With that angle, you don't *want* the script out there in advance. This way, they're getting a visual representation of what it might have been."

Is it fair to say that, because of budgetary restrictions, this is the purest vision of Smith's story that may ever be produced? "Oh, absolutely," he said. "Whenever you're writing a script, whether you're directing or not, you're thinking 'someone has got to make this happen.' So there's always some degree of temperance that goes along with writing a screenplay, because only things that are possible in the physical universe are possible, if you know what I mean. Even *Jim Cameron* and ***Avatar*** are bound by certain rules...

"When you're writing a comic book script, you don't have to do that. We never sit there and go, 'I can't write this because nobody can draw

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

this.' The limits of film aren't here. There's always *somebody* out there that can draw what you have in your head; the only frustration at that point, since I can't draw myself, is trying to translate that image from my head to the page. No matter how good the technology of the motion picture medium gets, it will never match the imagination of a comic book writer and a comic book artist because for them the sky's the limit. There's no budgetary constriction—it's just a dude with a keyboard and a dude with a pencil."

Is Smith's ***Green Hornet*** a classic tale revisited, or a contemporary reinterpretation? "It has a foot in both pools," Smith said. "Our story is set one foot in the Silver Age and one foot in the modern era. The tone is a balance between the two. We don't go as campy as the ***Batman*** TV series but I'd be lying to say it's not influenced by my being a longtime fan of that show. It's not as dark as ***Dark Knight***, naturally, but it's not as goofy and feather-light and homoerotic as ***Batman and Robin***."

What are the biggest changes that readers are going to find in Smith's take on Green Hornet and Kato? "Anybody who's been reading comics as long as I have isn't going to be surprised by anything we do," Smith said. Back in the late 80's, when Now had the license for ***Green Hornet***, they introduced the notion of a female Kato. For the movie, we were going to use the female Kato as well. So this series features the female Kato. Some people who are too young to remember the Now comics go, 'Hey man, that's groundbreaking, you made Kato a chick.' But I didn't do it. It happened years and years ago. I'm not that clever, believe me!

"I'm picking up somebody else's cool idea because there's something sexier about drawing a woman in that outfit kickin' ass rather than seeing another dude in those clothes kickin' ass. And there's something sexy about the male/female relationship, the balance. What we used to call in the 80's the David and Mattie of it all—the chemistry between those two characters tends to be a lot more electric when they're male and female."

While Smith is committed only to the first story arc adapting his script, he's not ruling out more ***Green Hornet*** tales further down the line. "I'd be surprised if, at the end of the run, I'm not going to want to stick with the book," Smith said. "At the end of my film, script, I just start getting deeper into the Brit Reed/Kato relationship in a way that is the most interesting to me. I can write six issues of those two involved with one another. So I could see myself at the end of the series wanting to stick around; I like the couple and I'd like to see where it eventually goes."

***The Green Hornet #1***, a $3.99 comic by *Kevin Smith & Jonathan Lau* with covers by *Alex Ross, John Cassaday, J. Scott Campbell,* and *Stephen Segovia,* is slated for March release.

**by Cliff Biggers**

# COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

**Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com***

## CSNsider

•Superstar artist *David Finch*, best known for his work on such Marvel projects as ***Ultimatum***, is making a move to DC, where he has signed an exclusive two-year contract. "I'm absolutely thrilled to be joining the DC family!" Finch said on DC's ***The Source*** blog. "It feels too good to be true that I'm going to have the chance to draw some of the most dynamic, iconic, and fun characters in the business. I've been a DC comics fan for a very long time, so it's a very big honor to finally have a part in their creation."

•DC editor *Joey Cavalieri* has offered more info concerning the upcoming ***Doc Savage*** ongoing series that will spin out of the March-debuting ***First Wave***. The lead Doc Savage tale will be written by *Paul Malmont* (author of ***The Chinatown Death Cloud Peril***, a novel that unites ***Shadow*** writer *Walter Gibson* and ***Doc Savage*** author *Lester Dent*) and illustrated by *Howard Porter*, while the backup Justice Inc. story will be written by crime novelist *Jason Starr* and illustrated by *Scott Hampton*.

•Apparently Marvel is ending its line of ***Marvel Adventures*** all-ages titles with the March issues, each of which is described by Marvel as "final issue." These standalone stories offered new readers a great entry point into the exciting realm of the Marvel Universe. No word yet on whether Marvel will replace these books with another all-ages-focused line—but when and if an announcement is made, you'll hear about it in *CSN!*

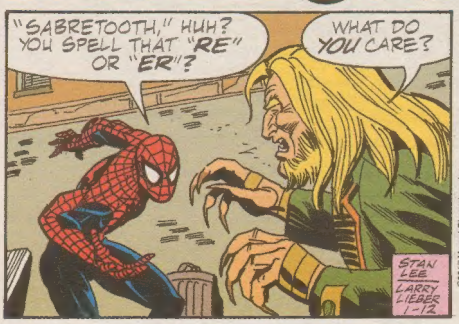
•Bluewater Productions is expanding its line of biographical comics with the addition of a new celebrity-focused line bearing the ***Fame*** brand. The first book in the new series, slated for early May release, will spotlight performer Lady GaGa. "***Fame*** gives us the ability to tell more interesting stories about a wider variety of notable personalities," Bluewater president *Darren G. Davis* said. "Conversely, it allows us to focus the scope of our other biography titles to more socially and politically important figures." Future ***Fame*** releases will spotlight *Robert Pattinson, 50 Cent, David Beckham,* and *Taylor Swift*.

•The effects of ***Image United*** resonate through the Image Universe in ***Image United: Interlude***, a 32-page book slated for late March release. "As the scope of ***Image United*** became larger and larger, it was apparent we would really need to touch on what the rest of the Image universe is up to," writer *Robert Kirkman* said. "The goal behind the mini-series is to create an even tighter Image universe than ever before, so not only do we get to see how this affects Image founder characters like Spawn, Youngblood, and Savage Dragon, but we're bringing in Invincible, among many other surprises." The book will feature art by *Ryan Ottley, Erik Larsen,* and many others.

•The US Postal Service, which has previously spotlighted DC and Marvel characters on postage stamp offerings, is releasing a ***Sunday Funnies*** stamp pane in July, spotlighting ***Archie, Beetle Bailey, Dennis the Menace, Garfield,*** and ***Calvin & Hobbes***. (Of the five, ***Archie*** is the only character who first appeared in a comic book prior to appearing in a newspaper strip, while ***Calvin & Hobbes*** is the only one of the five

## SPIDER-MAN

**BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER**



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not currently offering new material in either comic strip or comic book format.)

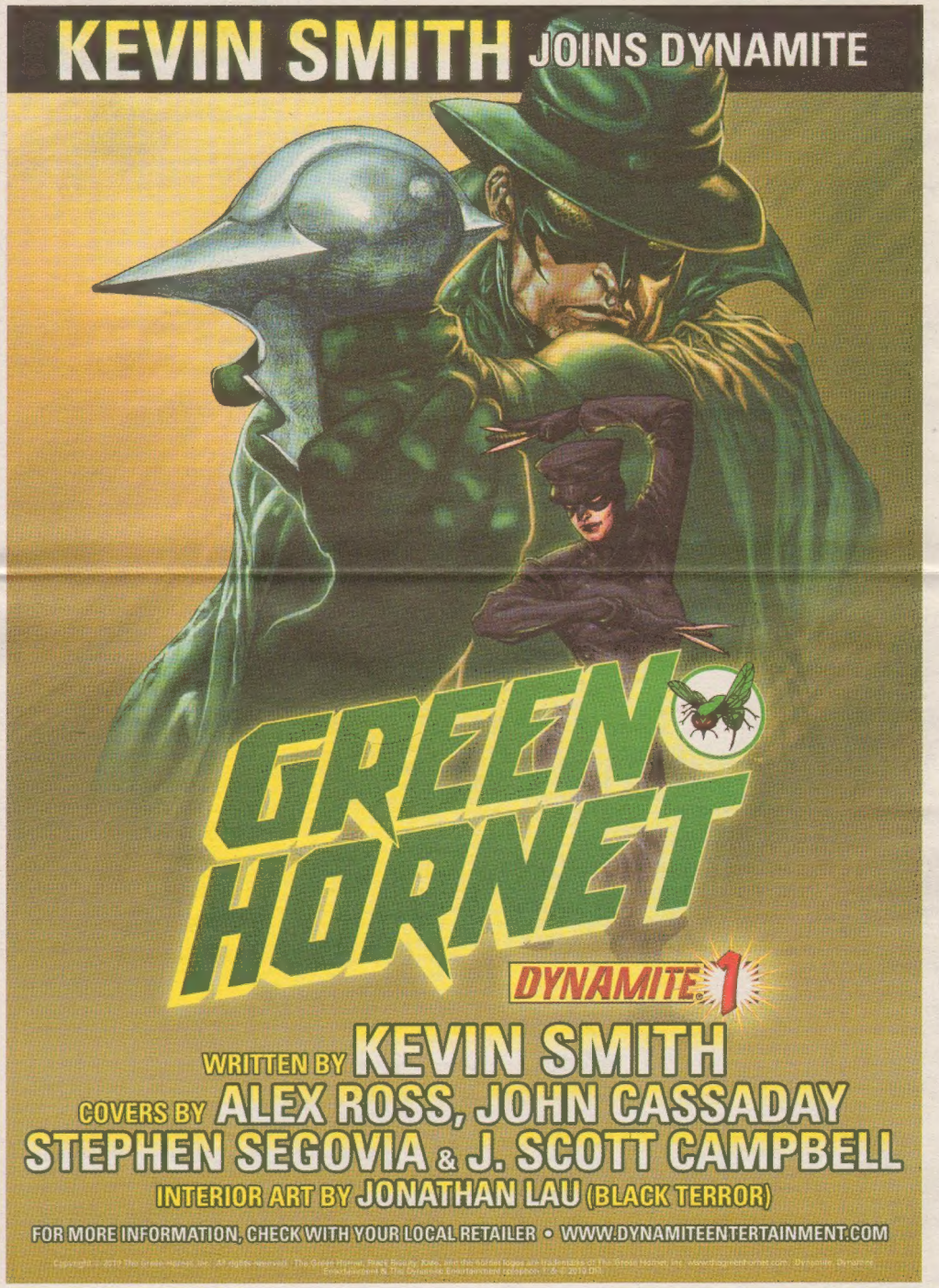
•Big changes in store for two licensed titles from WildStorm. Orders for upcoming issues of the ***World of Warcraft*** and ***Starcraft*** comic book series (based on Blizzard Entertainment's popular games) have been cancelled. Rather than publishing these tales in comic book form, WildStorm will feature the tales in a series of original graphic novels slated to debut in 2010. "While WildStorm and Blizzard loved the stories being told in the regular monthly comic-book series," WildStorm VP/General Manager *Hank Kanalz* said, "we decided that the graphic novel would be a more suitable medium for the tales we wanted to tell next. The larger format will give our artists and storytellers more room to explore Blizzard's rich, varied worlds and flesh out the characters that inhabit these places."

•Marvel has announced that they'll offer special Deadpool 1-for-15 variant covers for a variety of February-release titles. The issues featuring these offbeat variants include ***Amazing Spider-Man #620, Astonishing X-Men #34, Avengers Initiative #33, Captain America #603 Daredevil #505, Dark Avengers #14, Dark Wolverine #83, Fantastic Four #576, Guardians of the Galaxy #23, Incredible Hercules #141, Invincible Iron Man #23; Mighty Avengers #34, New Mutants #10, Nova #334, Secret Warriors #13, Tails of Pet Avengers, Thor #607, Uncanny X-Men #521, Web of Spider-Man #5, Wolverine Origins #45, Wolverine: Savage, X-Factor #202, X-Men Forever #17,*** and ***X-Men Legacy #233.*** Check with the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop for information on availability and price.

•Just days after acquiring Marvel Entertainment, the Walt Disney Company has signed a new agreement with *Stan Lee's* Pow! Entertainment that offers them enhanced rights to Pow!'s creative output as well as exclusive consulting services. ""Stan has incredible creative energy and continues to come up with great original stories that can work across many of our platforms, ranging from console games to motion pictures and from our boys-focused Disney XD network to mobile devices," *Bob Chapek,* president of worldwide distribution for Disney Studios, said. "Put that together with his knowledge and familiarity of the Marvel universe and it makes perfect sense to extend our excellent working relationship with Stan and Pow!"

•Following the successful model that Boom! Entertainment implemented with ***Irredeemable,*** Dynamite Entertainment is offering a bargain-priced trade paperback collection of ***Project Superpowers Chapter 2 #s 0-6*** on the same day that ***Project Superpowers Chapter 2 #7*** ships—and they're arranging to make copies of the book available at a special price in conjunction with the trade. Look for both in late February.

•NECA has announced that their first DC HeroClix offering, ***The Brave & the Bold,*** will be in shops in February. This series of new figures will include 55 superheroes and supervillains, including 25 characters who have never been featured in HeroClix until now. NECA is also offering a "by the brick" incentive


KEVIN SMITH JOINS DYNAMITE
GREEN HORNET
DYNAMITE 1
WRITTEN BY KEVIN SMITH
COVERS BY ALEX ROSS, JOHN CASSADAY
STEPHEN SEGOVIA & J. SCOTT CAMPBELL
INTERIOR ART BY JONATHAN LAU (BLACK TERROR)
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***Batman/ Catwoman HeroClix Figure,*** which will be offered as a mail-in for customers who buy ten booster packs.

•IDW has landed the rights to Smith & Tinker's online game Nanovor, and will offer their first grpahic novel based on the digital battling game in late February. The story begins when Lucas Nelson, a Hanover High student, accidentally discovers the Nanovor living inside his computer while looking for dust mites. Together with his best friends and his science professor, Lucas quickly learns all about the oldest living creatures on Earth. "***Nanovor: Game Day*** has easily been one of my favorite books to edit since I've been at IDW," said IDW editor *Tom Waltz*. "Tons of action, real drama, and plenty of laugh-inducing humor from start to finish... I really believe readers are going to be as pleasantly surprised as I've been by this great comic book story."

•*Dale Keown* has been tapped to supply the art for the special variant ***Image United #3 Cover G.*** Look for them in shops next week. (There will also be a limited 1-for-100-copy black and white variant cover featuring the same image by Keown; ask the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop for information on price and availability.)

•*Frank Miller* is beginning work on a new ***300***-related graphic novel, ***Xerxes,*** which will focus on the battle of Marathon, which occurred prior to the events of ***300***. No word yet on when ***Xerxes*** might see print, but Dark Horse is hoping that it will be in comic shops before the end of 2010.

## Back to Press

•***Fall of the Hulks Gamma 2nd Printing*** (NOV098013), featuring a variant cover by *Ed McGuinness*, in stores 1/27.

•***Blackest Night #3 2nd Printing*** (NOV098035), featuring a recolored version of the original cover by *Ivan Reis & Oclair Albert*, in stores 1/27.

•***Image United #2 2nd Printing,*** featuring cover art by *Rob Liefeld*, in stores this week.

•***Angel #28 2nd Printing*** (OCT098192), featuring a new cover by *Brian Denham*, in stores this week.

## Coming Comics—Marvel in March

*Mark Waid & Paul Azaceta* present a very different take on one of Spidey's oldest foes, the Vulture, in ***Amazing Spider-Man #623,*** a "Gauntlet" tale.

Want to know the secrets of becoming a comics superstar? Then check out ***Breaking Into Comics the Marvel Way!,*** the two-issue limited series by *CB Cebulski, Brian Bendis, Marc Guggenheim, Peter David,* and many others.... all of whom have done pretty well for themselves in the funnybook field!

*Stuart Moore & Mark Brooks* bring back Marvel's masters of light and darkness in ***Cloak & Dagger,*** a 40-page oneshot that finds the duo struggling to fit in among the mutants of Utopia.

*Trina Robbins, Devin Grayson, Ann Nocenti, G. Willow Wilson, Valerie D'Orazio, Colleen Coover, Stephanie Buscema,* and other talented women contribute original tales of the Marvelverse to the three-issue ***Girl Comics*** limited series.

When the most beloved Olympian of all time falls, who will mourn him? *Greg Pak, Fred Van Lente, & Ariel Olivetti* answer that question in ***Hercules: Fall of An Avenger,*** a two-issue limited series.

*Joe Casey & Barry Kitson* fill in the gaps between the end of the first ***Iron Man*** film and the beginning of the second in ***Iron Man #1.5,*** a three-issue limited series.

*John Barber* presents a look behind the making of the new film in ***Iron Man: The Art of Iron Man 2,*** a 208-page volume that features everything from preliminary sketches to fully rendered 3-D images; storyboards to intricate set designs; all of Iron Man's new armors, all of Whiplash's weapons, Tony Stark's lab and more.

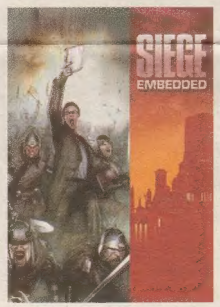
*Mark Millar & Steve McNiven* spotlight the career of a villain with the psychotic tendencies of the Joker and the vast resources of Batman in ***Nemesis,*** a new Icon creator-owned series.

*Chris Eliopoulos, Ig Guara, & Chris Sotomayor* go to the dogs—and frogs, and tigers, and dragons, and more—in ***Pet Avengers,*** a new four-issue limited series.

Deadpool, Lady Deadpool, Headpool, Kidpool, and Dogpool... they're all sharing the spotlight in ***Prelude to Deadpool Corps,*** an offbeat limited series by *Victor Gischler, Rob Liefeld, Whilce Portacio, Philip Bond, Paco Medina, & Kyle Baker* (each artist will illustrate an issue of the five-part series).

*Peter David & Brian Reed* celebrate thirty years of She-Hulkiness with the 80-page ***She-Hulk: Sensational,*** a oneshot that combines two original tales with classic reprints.

The battle for Asgard continues full-force in ***Siege #3*** by *Brian Bendis & Olivier Coipel.* Meanwhile, Marvel offers a look at how this battle impacts the average joe in the Marvelverse in ***The Siege: Embedded #3.*** And of course, ***Siege*** continues in a number of Marvel titles this month.




The Asgardian warrior Sif unites with Beta Ray Bill to fight her way back to her former glory in ***Sif,*** a oneshot written by *Kelly Sue DeConnick.*

*Stephen King's* compelling tale from his collection ***Just After Sunset*** is adapted by *Marc Guggenheim & Alex Maleev* in ***Stephen King's "N,"*** a four-issue limited series.

*Chris Weston* both writes and illustrates ***The Twelve: Spearhead,*** a WWII-era oneshot that unites Captain America and the heroes who would go on to become The Twelve.

*Jeph Loeb & Frank Cho* introduce the next great superteam of the Ultimate Marvelverse in ***Ultimate Comics New Ultimates #1.*** With Thor gone, Loki takes his revenge, unleashing the worst of Asgard on Earth—so Iron Man has to gather the heroes to stand in his way. But who makes the cut? You'll have to pick up the first issue to find out!

X-23 has spent her short life being used by those in power, from the military to the X-Men. But when she is forced to confront a being who can control her life she decides it's time to fight for herself in ***X-23,*** a oneshot by *Marjorie Liu & Alina Ursov.*

*Louise Simon-son* returns to the characters she helped to make famous in ***X-Factor Forever,*** a series that reunites the five X-Men who comprised the original X-Factor.

The next big X-event launches in March with the release of ***X-Men: Second Coming #1.*** The multi-part saga (fourteen numbered chapters plus seven ***X-Men Second Coming Revelations*** tie-ins) spins out of the ***Cable*** time-spanning prelude and will involve every major mutant title through the spring.

*Duane Swierczynski & Steve Dillon* give Hope Summers her moment in the spotlight in ***X-Men: Hope,*** a oneshot that presents four untold tales from Hope's future past.

The X-zombies saga comes to an end in ***X-Force #25,*** the finale of the ***Necrosha*** storyline. Now that the Black Queen has become the Dark Goddess, what can be done to stop her?

The Origins series continues with ***X-Men Origins: Nightcrawler*** by *Adam Freeman & Cary Nord.*

Marvel collected volumes include:

•***Amazing Spider-Man by JMS Ultimate Collection Book 3 TP,*** collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 503-518.***

•***Avengers: Standoff Premiere H,*** collecting 90's Avengers tales by *Geoff Johns, Dan Jurgens, Mike Grell, Gary Frank, Alan Davis,* and others.

•***Avengers/X-Men: Utopia TP,*** collecting ***Dark Avengers/Uncanny X-Men: Utopia & Exodus, Uncanny X-Men #s 513-514, Dark Avengers #s 7-8, Dark X-Men: The Beginning #s 1-3, X-Men Legacy #s 226-227,*** and more.

•***Avengers: The Initiative—Dreams & Nightmares Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Avengers: The Initiative #s 26-30.***

•***Captain America: America First HC,*** collecting ***America First, Operation Zero Point,*** and ***Prisoners of Duty.***

•***Captain America: Reborn Premium HC,*** collecting the six-issue series along with the ***Captain America Reborn Prelude*** digital comic.

•***Captain America: Winter Soldier Ultimate Collection TP,*** collecting ***Cap #s 1-9 & 11-14*** in a single volume.

•***Deadpool: Suicide Kings TP,*** reprinting the limited series.

•***Ender's Shadow: Command School Premiere HC,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.

•***Ender's Game: Command School Premiere HC,*** collecting the *other* five-part miniseries.

•***Essential Rampaging Hulk Volume 2 TP,*** collecting the black-and-white ***Hulk! #s 16-27.***

•***Iron Man: I Am Iron Man TP,*** collecting the two-part movie adaptation by *Peter David* as well as ***Iron Man #200*** and several other tales.

•***Iron Man: Official Index to the Marvel Universe GN,*** a mid-sized trade paperback spotlighting Iron Man's friends and foes.

•***Iron Man: Armor Wars Prologue,*** collecting ***Iron Man #s 215-224.***

•***Iron Man: Demon in a Bottle TP,*** collecting the acclaimed alcoholism storyline from ***Iron Man #s 120-128.***

•***Iron Man: Armor Wars TP,*** collecting ***Iron Man #s 225-232.***

•***Iron Man: The End TP,*** collecting ***Iron Man: The End, Iron Man: Requiem,*** and ***Iron Man #s 116 & 244.***

•***Marvel Masterworks Atlas Era Strange Tales Volume 3 HC,*** collecting ***Strange Tales #s 21-30*** featuring work by *Stan Lee, Joe Sinnott, Joe Maneely, John Forte, Bill Everett, Gene Colan, John Buscema, Carmine Infantino, Bernie Krigstein,* and others.

•***Marvel Masterworks Captain America Volume 5 HC,*** collecting ***Cap #s 125-136.***

•***Marvel Masterworks: The Invincible Iron Man Volume 1 TP,*** collecting the Iron Man tales from ***Tales of Suspense #s 39-50.***

•***New Avengers Volume 5 HC,*** collecting ***New Avengers #s 38-47.***

•***Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe A to Z Volume 13 Premiere HC,*** featuring updated and expanded biographies on dozens of Marvel characters.

•***Super Hero Squad: Get Yer Hero On Digest,*** collecting the comics seen on MarvelKids.com.

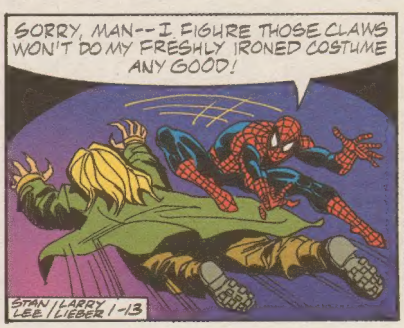
•***Ultimate Comics: Iron Man—Armor Wars Premiere HC,*** collecting the four-issue miniseries.

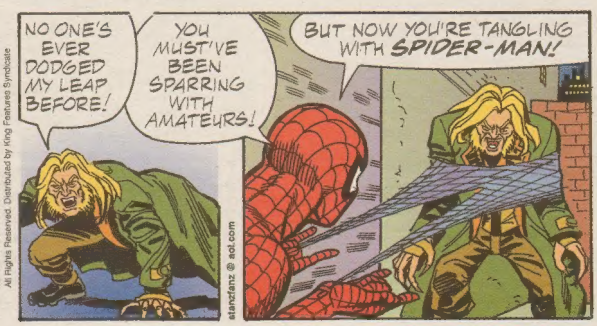
•***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man: The World According to Peter Parker Premiere HC,*** collecting ***UCSM #s 1-6.***

•***Ultimate Spider-Man Volume 11 HC,*** collecting ***Ultimate Spider-Man #s 123-133, Annual #3,*** and ***Requiem #s 1 & 2.***

•***Wolverine Origins: Seven the Hard Way Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Wolverine Origins #s 41-45.***

•***Wolverine Weapon X Volume 2: Insane in the Brain Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Wolverine: Weapon X #s 6-10.***





NO ONE'S EVER DODGED MY LEAP BEFORE!
YOU MUST'VE BEEN SPARRING WITH AMATEURS!
BUT NOW YOU'RE TANGLING WITH SPIDER-MAN!
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stanzfanz @ aol.com

# CSN TOP COMICS: FEBRUARY

### BLACKEST NIGHT #7 (OF 8)
**Geoff Johns (W); Ivan Reis (A)**
*(DC DEC090133 $3.99)*

### BLACKEST NIGHT: JSA #3 (OF 3)
**James Robinson (W); Eddy Barrows & Nei Ruffino (A)**
*(DC DEC090142 $2.99)*

### BLACKEST NIGHT: THE FLASH #3 (OF 3)
**Geoff Johns (W); Scott Kolins (A)**
*(DC DEC090140 $2.99)*

### BLACKEST NIGHT: WONDER WOMAN #3 (OF 3)
**Greg Rucka (W); Nicola Scott (A)**
*(DC DEC090144 $2.99)*

### ADVENTURE COMICS WITH BLACK LANTERN SUPERBOY #7
**Tony Bedard (W); Travis Moore (A)**
*(DC DEC090146 $3.99)*

### BLACK LANTERN GREEN ARROW #30 (BLACKEST NIGHT)
**JT Krul (W); Will Conrad (A)**
*(DC DEC090148 $3.99)*

### SECRET SIX #18 (BLACKEST NIGHT)
**John Ostrander & Gail Simone (W); Jim Calafiore (A)**
*(DC DEC090150 $2.99)*

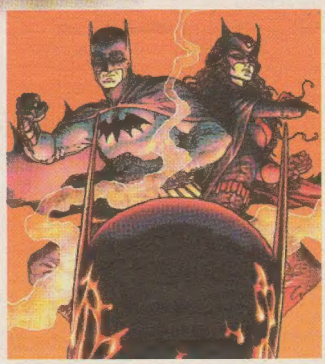
### GREEN LANTERN #51 (BLACKEST NIGHT)
**Geoff Johns (W); Doug Mahnke & Christian Alamy (A)**
*(DC DEC090136 $2.99)*

**What's the Scoop?**

As Nekron continues to wage war on life throughout the universe, Hal Jordan discovers the grim, true mission behind the villain's return... and it's even worse than he ever imagined. As if that's not enough to deal with, Hal also has to face off against the Black Lantern Spectre... and his only means of doing so may require the return of Parallax. Meanwhile, the Justice Society faces their dead mentors, Barry Allen takes on the Black Lantern Reverse Flash, the Amazonian Princess comes to terms with her role in the DCU, Amanda Waller unveils her plan for the Suicide Squad and the Secret Six as they confront the Black Lanterns... and something *very* big is happening in the pages of ***Adventure Comics*** and ***Green Arrow***.

**Why Should You Care?**

After taking a month off in January, ***Blackest Night*** is back with more exciting twists than ever! This is the story that keeps *everyone* talking—not only is ***Blackest Night*** and its carefully-coordinated tie-ins a major event done right, but each issue delivers more shocks and surprises than the month before. Everything begins to coalesce in this penultimate issue, paving the way for March's riveting finale!



### BATMAN AND ROBIN #8
**Grant Morrison (W); Cameron Stewart (A)**
*(DC DEC090151 $2.99)*

### BATMAN AND ROBIN #9
**Grant Morrison (W); Cameron Stewart (A)**
*(DC DEC090153 $2.99)*

**What's the Scoop?**

Only months into his new role as Batman, Dick Grayson faces perhaps the biggest threat of his life. In hopes of attaining his heart's desire, has Dick instead unleashed a terror the likes of which the world has never seen? Meanwhile, back in Gotham City, Alfred and a recuperating Robin are at the mercy of someone both fearsome and familiar...

**Why Should You Care?**

A double-helping of *Grant Morrison's* ***Batman and Robin*** is enough to make *any* month eventful—and when you add his *Seaguy* collaborator *Cameron Stewart* to the mix, it's doubly appealing!

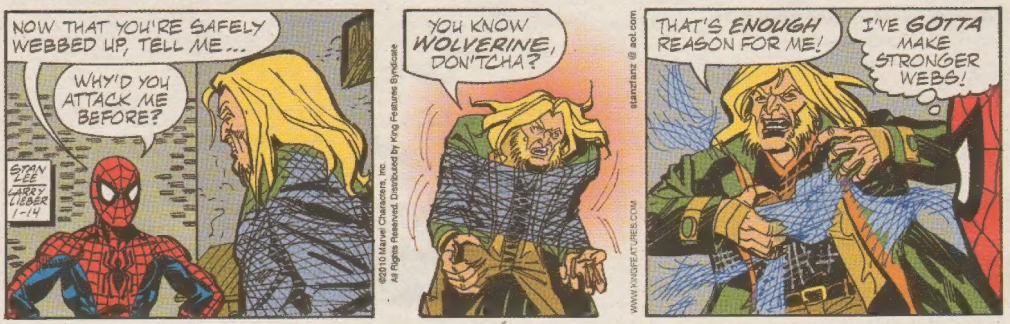
### DOOMWAR #1 (OF 5)
**Jonathan Maberry (W); Scot Eaton & Will Conrad (A)**
*(Marvel DEC090494 $3.99)*

**What's the Scoop?**

Dr. Doom and the forces of Latveria launch a blitzkrieg attack on Wakanda, seizing its vibranium reserves and overthrowing its government. Now it's up to the combined forces of the Fantastic Four, the X-Men, and the two Black Panthers to set things right once again.

**Why Should You Care?**

The most malevolent villain in the Marvel Universe is doing what he does best—or should we say "worst"?—in this five-part series.


NOW THAT YOU'RE SAFELY WEBBED UP, TELL ME...
WHY'D YOU ATTACK ME BEFORE?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 1-14
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YOU KNOW WOLVERINE, DON'TCHA?
standanz @ aol.com
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM
THAT'S ENOUGH REASON FOR ME!
I'VE GOTTA MAKE STRONGER WEBS!

WHERE CAN I FIND WOLVERINE?
I DON'T KNOW-- AND I WOULDN'T TELL IF I KNEW!
AFTER I GET THROUGH WITH YOU--
©2010 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
YOU'LL BE BEGGING TO TELL ME!
NOT TILL YOU TAKE AN ANGER MANAGEMENT COURSE!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 1-15

## HELLBLAZER: PANDEMONIUM HC

**Jamie Delano (W); Jock (A)**
*(Vertigo/DC OCT090300 $24.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

What starts out as a dalliance with an alluring Muslim woman takes an ominous turn when bombings, Sumerian artifacts, and supernatural horrors enter the picture. Soon, Constantine finds himself in modern Iraq, where he'll see modern-day terror like he's never imagined.

### Why Should You Care?

***Hellblazer's*** first writer returns to write an original graphic novel that commemorates John Constantine's twenty-fifth anniversary.—and he's joined by fan-favorite artist *Jock* to present a horror tale with 21st Century overtones.

## HUMAN TARGET #1 (OF 6)

**Len Wein & Peter Johnson (W); Bruno Redondo, Sergio Sandoval, Chris Sprouse, & Karl Story (A)**
*(DC DEC090176 $2.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

When Christopher Chance takes on the task of protecting a highly placed informant and collecting damaging evidence throughout Europe, he truly becomes a Human Target as every assassin and goon from Paris to Prague will be gunning for him!

### Why Should You Care?

Just in time to coincide with the debut of the ***Human Target*** television series on the Fox network, DC unveils a new ***Human Target*** miniseries written by the character's creator, *Len Wein*—and each issue features a backup story by *Peter Johnson*, executive producer of the Fox series.

## IMAGE UNITED #0 (OF 6)

**Robert Kirkman (W); Erik Larsen, Ryan Ottley, & Whilce Portacio (A)**
*(Image DEC090361 $2.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

Fortress, the man trapped in a suit that gives him almost limitless powers, is the focus of this special issue that features a confrontation between him and the Savage Dragon.

### Why Should You Care?

*Whilce Portacio* reveals the back story of the character he introduced in ***Image United #1*** in this prelude tale.

## INVINCIBLE RETURNS #1

**Robert Kirkman (W); Ryan Ottley & Cory Walker (A)**
*(Image DEC090364 $3.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

After the shocking events of the Invincible War and the cataclysmic battle with Conquest, Invincible dons his old costume—but what he's wearing may seem less important when he finds himself caught up in the Viltrumite War!

### Why Should You Care?

With one major story arc coming to an end and another about to begin in ***Invincible #71***, *Robert Kirkman* offers a special standalone issue that makes it easy for new readers to get up to speed, while offering veteran readers a sneak peek at what the future holds.

## JUSTICE LEAGUE: CRY FOR JUSTICE #7 (OF 7)

**James Robinson (W); Mauro Cascioli (A)**
*(DC DEC090192 $3.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

After the catastrophic events of ***Cry for Justice #s 5 & 6***, a hero sets out to mete justice in his own way... and the events of this issue will impact the JLA and the life of one of its most veteran members.

### Why Should You Care?

The pivotal events of ***Cry for Justice #7*** will lead into a major storyline launching next month, and will have lasting ramifications as far as two DC heroes are concerned.

## LEGENDARY TALE-SPINNERS #1 (OF 3)

**James Kuhoric (W): Grant Bond (A)**
*(Dynamite DEC090793 $3.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

For two centuries, something has been destroying the storytellers and their wondrous tales, leaving behind dulled imaginations and humdrum lives. Now one of those mundanes finds her orderly world thrown akilter when the real Baron Munchausen enters her life, leading her into a fantasy world replete with villainous henchmen, zombified fairy tale creatures, and the most unlikely wicked witch of all!

### Why Should You Care?

*James Kuhoric & Grant Bond* lead Dynamite Entertainment on a bold new venture into Vertigo territory with this saga certain to appeal to fans of ***Fables.***

## MILESTONE FOREVER #1 (OF 2)

**Dwayne McDuffie (W); John Paul Leon, Mark Bright, Denys Cowan, ChrisCross, Prentis Rollins, & Rob Stull (A)**
*(DC DEC090178 $5.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

The Milestone heroes are back in action in the DCU—but this two-issue limited series completes the tales begun in the original runs of ***Static Shock, Icon, Hardware, Shadow Cabinet,*** and ***Blood Syndicate.***

### Why Should You Care?

Not only does this series present the finale fate of each of Milestone's launch characters in stories that provide intriguing leadins to their upcoming DCU tales, it also reunites *Dwayne McDuffie* and the original Milestone artists.

## RED SONJA: WRATH OF THE GODS #1 (OF 5)

**Luke Lieberman & Ethan Ryker (W); Walter Geovani (A)**
*(Dynamite DEC090800 $3.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

Red Sonja, Thor, and Odin versus Loki—it may sound like a Marvel crossover tale waiting to happen, but in reality its a sword-and-sorcery-meets-mythology saga set in Sonja's early years.

### Why Should You Care?

Readers who miss Queen Sonja's free-wheeling pre-royalty days will enjoy this tale bringing the She-Devil with a Sword face-to-face with the Norse gods.

## SIEGE #2 (OF 4)

**Brian Bendis (W); Olivier Coipel (A)**
*(Marvel DEC090432 $3.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

The battle lines have been drawn, and the heroes are ready to take on Norman Osborn and his evil cabal. But this isn't just another super-slugfest—there will be casualties on both sides, and it begins here with the death of an Avenger...

### Why Should You Care?

At long last, Marvel delivers on the promise of earlier mega-events with a fast-paced four-month event miniseries that resolves plotlines introduced in ***Civil War*** and ***Secret Invasion,*** leading to major changes in the Marvelverse later this year.

## SPAWN #200

**Todd McFarlane & Robert Kirkman (W); Todd McFarlane, Greg Capullo, Danny Miki, & others (A)**
*(Image DEC090345 $3.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

The new Spawn, Jim Downing, enlists the aid of his new sidekick Clown to take on the biggest enemy of the Spawn Universe. Wait... new sidekick Clown?... And what's this talk of God getting involved?

### Why Should You Care?

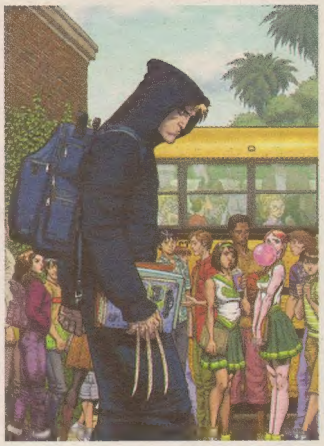
Image's flagship title turns 200, and *Todd McFarlane* is on hand for the celebration, along with *Robert Kirkman, Greg Capullo, Danny Miki, David Finch, Jim Lee, Rob Liefeld, Mark Silvestri, Ashley Wood,* and others. 48 pages... all star creators... major storyline... what more could a fan want?

## ULTIMATE COMICS X #1

**Jeph Loeb (W); Art Adams (A)**
*(Marvel DEC090464 $3.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

In an Ultimate Universe where mutants have been ordered to turn themselves in to the government or risk being shot on sight... where Wolverine is dead... where Captain America is a fugitive... where the Fantastic Four is disbanded... there is a new character waiting in the wings to bring a ray of hope to an otherwise grim world.



### Why Should You Care?

In this new series that expands the Ultimate Universe, *Jeph Loeb* reminds is that X can not only refer to mutants, but can also be a symbol for something unknown. Joining him is artist *Art Adams*, making his ongoing series return with this bimonthly project.

## WAKING #1 (OF 4)

**Raven Gregory (W); Vic Drujiniu (A)**
*(Zenescope DEC091083 $3.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

An investigation into two routine murders takes a horrifying twist when the victims of the crimes return from the dead in search of those responsible for ending their lives, leading to a second investigation to determine who's behind these mysterious "wakings."

### Why Should You Care?

*Raven Gregory* takes Zenescope in a new direction with this suspenseful, edgy limited series that blends zombie horror and crime drama.

## FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

## AGE OF TV HEROES HC

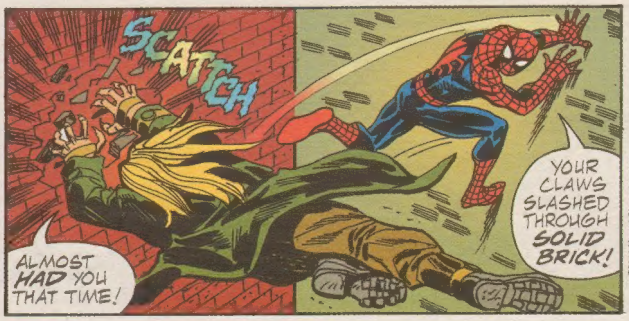
*(TwoMorrows DEC091015 $39.95)*

*Jason Hofius & George Khoury* examine the history of the live-action television adventures of everyone's favorite comic book heroes in this volume that spans the decades from ***The Adventures of Superman*** to ***Smallville.***

## ESSENTIAL WONDER WOMAN ENCYCLOPEDIA HC

*(Del Rey NOV091034 $35.95)*

From A to Z, this comprehensive, fully illustrated sourcebook is the ultimate guide to the Amazonian Princess.

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### INVINCIBLE GENE COLAN TP

*(Hero Initiative DEC090880 $19.99)*

This collection looks back at Colan's important career and phenomenal work, with analysis and commentary from *Stan Lee, Roy Thomas, John Romita, Walter Simonson, Neil Gaiman, Tom Spurgeon,* and *Tom Palmer.*

### IRON MAN: THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO ARMORED HERO HC

*(DK NOV091037 $24.99)*

Produced in collaboration with Marvel Comics, this essential guide to Iron Man details Tony Stark's scientific genius, his secret life as a crime fighter, his personal struggles and demons, his involvement in the Avengers, his role in *Secret Invasion*, his allies, his foes, and more.

## Hot Commodities: February's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

### AME COMI BATMAN VINYL STATUE

*(DC Direct JUL090325 $70.00)*

### AME COMI ROBIN VINYL FIGURE

*(DC Direct JUL090326 $60.00)*

The Ame-Comi line expands to include the men of the DC Universe, beginning with Batman. Don't worry, fans of the female form—there's a female version of Robin offered as a companion figure.

### HAVOK STATUE

*(Bowen DEC091375 $200.00)*

Alex Summers, brother to Cyclops, occasional X-Man and former leader of X-Factor, is spotlighted in this statue sculpted by *Jason Smith.*

### JUSTICE LEAGUE CRISIS TWO EARTHS OWLMAN MAQUETTE

*(DC Direct DEC090311 $99.99)*

Hand-painted cold-cast porcelain maquette of Owlman based on art from the Warner Home Video made-for-DVD animated original movie ***Justice League: Crisis on Two Earths.***

# Collected Cool: February's Best Reprint Volumes

### ANNOTATED NORTHWEST PASSAGE TP

*(Oni DEC090967 $15.99)*

This massive annotated edition collects all three installments of Scott Chantler's historical adventure series.

### CREEPER BY STEVE DITKO HC

*(DC OCT090244 $39.99)*

Collects *Steve Ditko's* Creeper canon from ***Showcase #73, Beware the Creeper #s 1-6,*** and more—including a story never before officially released until now!

### GIRL GENIUS HC VOL 1: AGATHA & BEETLEBURG CLANK COLOR ED

*(Airship DEC090639 $48.95)*

### GIRL GENIUS TP VOL 1: AGATHA & BEETLEBURG CLANK COLOR ED

*(Airship DEC090638 $22.95)*

*Phil & Kaja Foglio's* delightful steampunk adventure series gets the full color treatment in this volume, offered in both softcover and limited edition hardcover.

# Check 'Em Out: Books You *Should* Be Reading

### ATOMIC ROBO: REVENGE OF THE VAMPIRE DIMENSION #1 (OF 4)

*(Red 5 DEC090976 $3.50)*

This sleeper fan-fave title is back with a new limited series that pits Atomic Robo against a ton of vampires.

### CAPTAIN SWING #1 (OF 4)

*(Avatar DEC090689 $3.99)*

Warren Ellis presents an adventure-romance set in a piratepunk world of 1830, where newly-minted copper Charlie Gravel keeps seeing things he's not supposed to... such as flying things that aren't supposed to fly.

### CHOKER #1

*(Image DEC090342 $3.99)*

*Ben McCool & Ben Templesmith* present a skewed tale of hardboiled noir. Johnny 'Choker' Jackson, once one of Shotgun City's most promising police officers, has been offered his old job on the force—provided he can nail a twisted drug dealer selling a very exclusive product...

### DMZ #50

*(Vertigo/DC DEC090266 $3.99)*

*Brian Wood* celebrates ***DMZ***'s fiftieth with "Notes from the Underground," an oversized collection of short stories gathered by stranded rookie journalist Matty Roth on location in the heart of America's Second Civil War.

### GI JOE OPERATION HISS #1

*(IDW DEC090888 $3.99)*

Scarlett and Snake Eyes are dispatched to investigate a disturbance at a Chinese weapons facility- and come face to face with the first stages of Cobra's latest and most deadly plan.

### PILOT SEASON: STELLAR #1

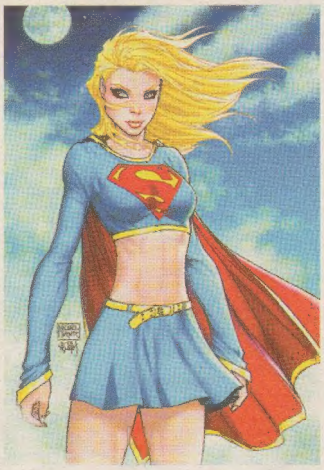
*(Top Cow/Image DEC090422 $2.99)*

*Robert Kirkman & Bernard Chang* introduce Stellar, one of five genetically enhanced super-humans created by the government of Earth. The process used on her has made her toxic to other humans... and caused the other four volunteers to lose their minds. Now banished from Earth, Stellar roams to cosmos trying to use her powers for good.

### POPGUN GN VOL 4

*(Image DEC090379 $29.99)*

*DJ Kirkbride, Anthony Wu, & Adam P. Knave* return with another volume of the award-winning anthology series. ***Popgun Volume 4*** features more than five hundred pages of original comics material by *Jock, Jeffery Brown, Erik Larsen, Tom Scioli, Salgood Sam, Mark Andrew Smith,* and others.



### SUPERGIRL #50

*(DC DEC090171 $4.99)*

This extra-length issue features a lead story pitting the Girl of Steel against a mysterious new foe, as well as a backup story co-written by film Supergirl *Helen* Slater.

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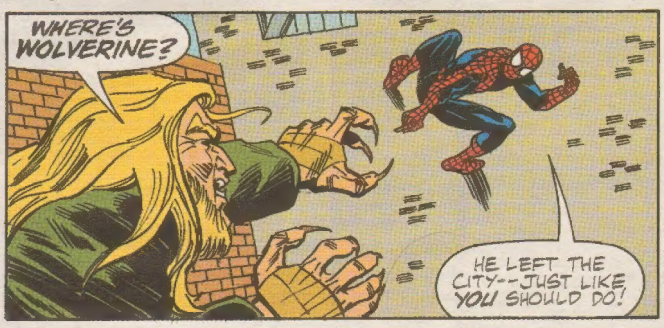
WHERE'S WOLVERINE?
HE LEFT THE CITY--JUST LIKE YOU SHOULD DO!
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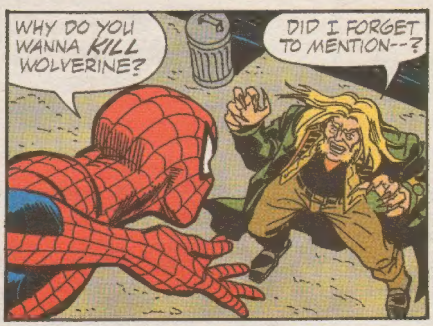
WHY DO YOU WANNA KILL WOLVERINE?
DID I FORGET TO MENTION--?
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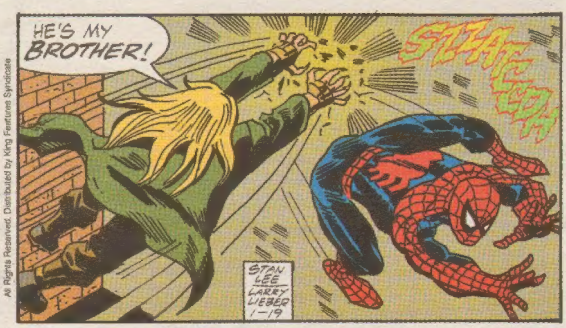
Colors: Ward Batty

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